

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re. Application of:

**Kalle SUURPAA** : Group Art Unit: **2629**  
Serial No.: **10/516,887** : Confirmation No.: **6812**  
Filed: **December 3, 2004** : Examiner: **Mansour M. SAID**  
For: ***COVER FOR AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE WITH A  
COVER***

Mail Stop: **RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACCOMPANYING RCE**

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of November 20, 2009 and the Advisory Action of March 29, 2010, please amend the above application as follows:

*If any fee and/or extension is required in addition to any enclosed herewith, please charge Account No. 23-0442.*

**In the Specification:**

*On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 as follows:*

--For achieving an active decoration, it is ~~moreover~~moreover possible to integrate light emitting diodes (LEDs) into the cover, which LEDs are switched on and off according to signals provided by a micro-controller provided in the cover. The light provided by switched on LEDs is then visible to a user through the outer surface of the cover.--

**In the Claims:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (currently amended) A cover for an electronic device, the cover comprising:
  - a decoration which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to the electronic device;
  - a contact sensitive component arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component is touched; ~~and~~
  - a processor provided in said cover; and
  - a connection component configured to electrically connect said contact sensitive component to a said processor,  
~~said cover configured to provide said processor in the cover~~, said processor configured to be provided with said electrical signal generated by said contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function.
2. (original) The cover according to claim 1, wherein said contact sensitive component comprises a pressure sensitive film.
3. (original) The cover according to claim 2, wherein said pressure sensitive film is an electromechanical film.
4. (original) The cover according to claim 2, wherein said pressure sensitive film comprises at least one force sensitive resistor.
5. (original) The cover according to claim 1, wherein said contact sensitive component comprises at least one capacitive sensor.

6. (original) The cover according to claim 5, wherein different parts of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component result in a generation of different signals by said contact sensitive component when touched.
7. (original) The cover according to claim 5, wherein one or more selected parts of said decoration are associated to one or more functions enabled by a processor to which said contact sensitive component can be connected via said connection component.
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The cover according to claim 5, wherein said decoration comprises at least one light emitting diode which is controllable by a processing component.
11. (previously presented) The cover according to claim 5, wherein said decoration comprises at least one electro-luminance pattern which is controllable by a processing component.
12. (currently amended) An electronic device comprising a cover, which cover comprises
  - a decoration which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to an electronic device;
  - a contact sensitive component arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component is touched; ~~and~~
  - a processor in said cover; and

- a connection component configured to electrically connect said contact sensitive component to said processor,  
~~said cover configured to provide said processor in the cover,~~ said processor configured to be provided with said electrical signal generated by said contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function.
13. (original) The electronic device according to claim 12 comprising a data connection to said cover and a processing component configured to process data received by said contact sensitive component of said cover.
  14. (original) The cover according to claim 1, wherein different parts of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component result in a generation of different signals by said contact sensitive component when touched.
  15. (original) The cover according to claim 1, wherein one or more selected parts of said decoration are associated to one or more functions enabled by a processor to which said contact sensitive component can be connected via said connection component.
  16. (canceled)
  17. (canceled)
  18. (previously presented) The cover according to claim 1, wherein said decoration comprises at least one light emitting diode which is controllable by a processing component.

19. (previously presented) The cover according to claim 1, wherein said decoration comprises at least one electro-luminance pattern which is controllable by a processing component.
20. (original) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein said contact sensitive component of said cover comprises a pressure sensitive film.
21. (original) The electronic device according to claim 20, wherein said pressure sensitive film is an electromechanical film.
22. (original) The electronic device according to claim 20, wherein said pressure sensitive film comprises at least one force sensitive resistor.
23. (original) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein said contact sensitive component comprises at least one capacitive sensor.
24. (original) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein different parts of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component result in a generation of different signals by said contact sensitive component when touched.
25. (original) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein one or more selected parts of said decoration are associated to one or more functions enabled by a processor to which said contact sensitive component can be connected via said connection component.
26. (canceled)
27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein said decoration comprises at least one light emitting diode which is controllable by a processing component.
29. (previously presented) The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein said decoration comprises at least one electro-luminance pattern which is controllable by a processing component.
30. (currently amended) A cover comprising:
- means for presenting a decoration which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to an electronic device;
  - means for generating an electrical signal when a part of said decoration is touched; ~~and~~
  - means for providing a processor in said cover; and
  - means for electrically connecting said means for generating an electrical signal to ~~a processing means~~said processor,  
~~said cover configured to provide said processing means in the cover, said processor~~ processing means configured to be provided with said electrical signal generated by said means for generating an electrical signal to at least realize a specific function.

### **REMARKS**

In response to the final Office Action of November 20, 2009, amendment has been made to independent claims 1, 12, and 30 in a manner which is believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. A slight amendment has been made to the specification at page 2, line 3 to correct a spelling error. No new matter is added.

Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner Said for his helpful comments made during a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on April 14, 2010, at which time Examiner Said explained that the comments made in the Advisory Action of March 29, 2010 regarding the processor would, in his opinion, require amendment of the independent claims to point out that the processor is part of the cover. Corresponding amendment has been made as suggested by the Office. In this regard, support for this amendment is found in the original application as filed, including page 3, lines 19-20 of the published PCT application.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103**

At section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-25, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over US patent 6,259,045, Imai, in view of US patent 7,345,592, Rogers.

With regard to claim 1, the Office asserts that Imai teaches a cover for an electronic device comprising a decoration which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to an electronic device; contact sensitive components arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component is touched; and a connection component to electrically connect said contact sensitive component to a processing component. The Office asserts that Imai does not expressly teach that the decoration is adjustable by a processing component,<sup>1</sup> but that Rogers teaches an electronic cover, including a decoration (LED) which is adjustable by a processing component and that it would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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<sup>1</sup> Claim 1 does not require that the decoration is adjustable by a processing component. It is assumed that the Office is referring to the feature in claim 1 that recites "said processor configured to be provided with said electrical signal generated by said contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function."

art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Rogers' electronic cover having an LED controlled by a CPU into Imai's electronic cover so as to illuminate activated push buttons. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As set forth in its Abstract and at column 2, line 33 through column 3, line 20, and as shown in Figure 2, Imai is directed to a keybutton-equipped device which has a board 40 with electrodes 41 at predetermined positions on which a predetermined number of sensitive elements at predetermined positions are provided; a case 20 in which the board is mounted and a predetermined number of holes 21 formed at positions corresponding to the sensitive elements on the board, as well as a keypad 10 (Figures 1A and 1B) which is of a stretchy material (such as rubber and plastic) and is formed with a tubular body to cover and tighten the case. The overall arrangement of the device is shown in Figure 3 of Imai.

It is therefore clear that Imai only discloses the use of a board 40 having electrodes 41 (Imai, Figures 2-7 and column 2, lines 43-46). Imai does not disclose a cover comprising a processor provided in said cover, as well as the processor being configured to be provided with electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function. At best, board 40 of Imai corresponds to the connection component of the cover as set forth in amended claim 1. In this regard, the Office at page 3, line 4 of the Office Action states "Imai teaches a cover for an electronic device including light emitting [diode]". However, the light emitting diodes discussed in Imai, such as at column 4, lines 51-54 are with regard to an LED which is adjacent to the electrode of the board and therefore is not in the cover.

It is clear that Imai only discloses the use of a board 40 (see Figure 2) having electrodes 41 (see Figures 2-7 and column 2, lines 43-46 of Imai). Imai does not disclose a cover comprising a processor provided in said cover, as well as said processor configured to be provided with electrical signals generated by contact sensitive components to at least realize a specific function.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the feature of the present invention setting forth that the cover comprising a processor provided in said cover, as well as the

processor configured to be provided with electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component so as to at least realize a specific function are not disclosed or suggested by Imai. At best, the teaching of Imai would show to a person of ordinary skill in the art that electrodes 41 and board 40 might be connected to a processor associated with an electronic device, but completely fails to suggest that the cover comprises a processor provided in said cover and wherein the processor is configured to receive the electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function.

Furthermore, Rogers is cited by the Office as teaching an electronic cover, including a decoration (LED) which is adjustable by a processing component. Rogers is directed to a hand-held remote control unit which has an LED that can be enabled depending upon the use of the remote control device (such as if it is to be used for operating a video gaming system) (Rogers, Abstract). In particular, Rogers shows a remote control unit which represents the entire electronic device and not just a cover. There is no indication that the operating circuitry shown in Rogers could form a part of a cover. In Rogers, only housing 11 would be understood to form the cover and at most base panel 12, keypad 13, and faceplate 14 could be seen as additional elements of the cover. None of the other elements is shown or mentioned in Rogers to belong to an entity that could be considered a cover. Furthermore, the passage at column 6, lines 29-55 as relied upon by the Office does not provide any suggestion that microprocessor 41 of Figure 4 or Figure 6 could be a part of a cover.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Rogers does not disclose the missing features in Imai that the Office relies upon with regard to amended claim 1.

In fact, if for purposes of argument, one is to combine Imai with Rogers, one would end up with a device where the microprocessor or CPU controlling the LED would be inside the device and not in the cover for the device.

It is respectfully submitted that there is a clear difference between a cover comprising a processor provided in said cover compared to some combination of Imai with Rogers where the processor is inside the device. When utilizing the processor in the cover according to the present invention as claimed, it is possible to provide exchangeable

covers which, of course, would not be possible in the combination of Imai and Rogers. The present invention as claimed in amended claim 1 is to a cover for an electronic device, it is not the electronic device itself.

In view of the all of the foregoing reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers.

Independent electronic device claim 12 and independent cover claim 30 have been amended in a manner corresponding to claim 1 and for similar reasons are also believed to be distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13-15, 18-25, 28, and 29 are also to be distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers at least in view of their ultimate dependency from an independent claim which is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 22, 2010  
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